



## **Clean Energy Future Committee Meeting Minutes**

November 18, 2022  
8:15 – 9:30 a.m.  
Virtually Conducted

Members present: Eric Helmuth, David Morgan, Marc Breslow, Shelly Dein, Pasi Miettinen, Jim DiTullio, Talia Fox, Ryan Katofsky, Nellie Aikenhead.

Also attending: Pat Hanlon, Brucie Moulton, Jennifer Susse

Members not present: Coralie Cooper

Ms. Fox convened the meeting at 8:15 am and read a brief statement noting the Massachusetts legislature extended the legislation that permits virtual meetings through March 2023.

### **1. Staffing updates**

Dan Amstutz has left the Town of Arlington, and the Committee acknowledged all of Dan's hard work on the CEFC. Eric Helmuth expressed his appreciation for Dan's commitment to the sustainability work of the Town. Ms. Dein also expressed her appreciation for Dan's work.

### **2. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the October 28, 2022 meeting. Ms. Fox asked for any corrections, additions, or changes Mr. Katofsky noted a spelling error at the top of page 2. Ms. Dein motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Mr. Katofsky seconded. The Committee then approved the October meeting minutes.

### **3. Hybrid Meeting Project**

Ms. Susse gave background on the hybrid meeting pilot. Two technologies: Owls and Neat Bars. Owls work best when they are paired. The Neat Bars are pretty seamless. Ms. Susse stated the paired owls will work best for the CEFC. The pilot will run for three months, through March 2023. There is a document that describes decision points, for example, what happens if there are too few people participating and there is no quorum. Mr. Helmuth added that the pilot is intended to help boards and committees of the Town by identifying issues that need to be worked out. Ms. Fox opened a discussion of whether the CEFC wants to participate in the pilot and be back in person. Mr. Katofsky, Ms. Aikenhead, and David Morgan said they would like to come back in person. Mr. Katofsky and David Morgan said they can help with technology. Mr. Helmuth and Pasi

Miettinen said they would come in for some meetings. Mr. DiTullio, Mr. Breslow and Shelly Dein said they probably won't participate in person. The hybrid pilot is scheduled to expire in March, so if the CEFC participates, its pilot would be relatively short. The CEFC could continue with the hybrid approach if it works well for the Committee. The CEFC could switch to the Neat Bar after the end of the pilot if the CEFC wants to continue with hybrid meetings. We won't need to have a quorum in person. Mr. Katofsky made a motion for the CEFC to participate in the pilot and Ms. Dein seconded the motion. The CEFC then voted to participate in the remote pilot. Ms. Fox proposed the next three CEFC meetings be held as hybrid meetings. The CEFC thanked Jennifer Susse and Eric Helmuth for their work on the pilot project.

#### **4. Vote on Gas Leaks Task Force Resolution:**

David Morgan introduces a Gas Leaks Task Force resolution asking National Grid to fix the 14 major gas leaks in Arlington. The resolution calls on the utility to fix the leaks in a timely manner. The original timeline set for repair was two years and some of the leaks are past this date. Mr. Morgan looked into the utility plans submitted to DPU for fixing the leaks and three are scheduled to be repaired. The resolution is a next step to gain attention for this issue. The Task Force plans to follow up with public outreach on the hazards of gas leaks, pending funding. Ms. Fox stated that Mr. Morgan is designated to lead the Task Force. She also noted that engaging in advocacy to accelerate the repair of gas leaks is an action item in the NZAP. Ms. Dein said an optimal fix is to replace large sections rather than small sections of pipe and to coordinate with other public works projects such as water and sewer line repair. Mr. Morgan said they were leaving it up to the utilities on when to make the repairs and how to coordinate with other public works projects. Ms. Dein stated that the Town should coordinate to ensure that repairs to its own infrastructure are coordinated with utility repair of gas lines, and other infrastructure upgrades. Mr. Miettinen said gas line replacement projects can be very disruptive and advance planning and coordination would be optimal. Mr. Katofsky suggested approving the resolution and asked if the CEFC could prepare a short statement on coordination of infrastructure upgrades to send in with the endorsement. Ms. Fox suggested designating the development of a statement to the CEFC Chair to be sent with the vote to endorse the resolution. Ms. Dein moved to adopt the resolution with an added statement developed by the Chair. Mr. Breslow seconded. The CEFC voted to approve the resolution.

#### **5. Committee Updates**

Before the next meeting, the plan to have draft warrant articles to discuss and put forth for a vote. These include the specialized stretch code and a net zero municipal buildings by-law. We'll be circulating those in advance of the meeting. Pat Hanlon gave a detailed presentation to Sustainable Arlington. That was recorded and we can circulate the link. There is also an outreach group on the opt-in stretch code that will be making a plan on how to educate the public on the code. Mr. Hanlon added that Mothers Out Front asked for a presentation to the group. Mr. Miettinen stated the communication should be simple. The bottom line is that new homes will have to be 20% more efficient than was previously required.

Ms. Fox stated that on the net zero municipal buildings by-law we should consider coordinating outreach for the by-law with outreach on the opt in specialized stretch

code. If anyone on the CEFC would like to join the workgroup that has knowledge on Town buildings, please let Ms. Fox know.

Electrify Arlington – CEFC held the kickoff meeting in November with 50 people in person and 50 online. The coaches are now coaching residents and there is a mechanism for the public to sign up for a coaching session. Ms. Fox gave an efficiency talk with the Council on Aging, and there will be another Community Education class on heat pumps in March. Mr. Katofsky thanked Ms. Fox for her work and said the kick-off was a great meeting.

On the municipal fleet policy, Ms. Fox applied for a meta-grant to get a decarbonization road map funded. Power Options might be the contractor to do this work. Ms. Dein asked what Power Options' role would be. Ms. Fox said they have been helping with a total cost of ownership for the school buses and would do something similar for the municipal fleet. On the Ottoson school bus location, the pad has been poured and there is conduit in the ground. The Town is waiting for the transformer. The Town is planning a ribbon cutting. Mr. Katofsky and Mr. Miettinen said there are significant delays across the country in obtaining transformers and other equipment needed for electrification projects. Ms. Dein stated to the extent possible, the Town needs to work on installing bi-directional charging for school buses and other vehicles.

Ms. Fox has been talking to a professor at Bentley College and the professor is offering to have her students update the Town's inventory using the MAPC inventory tool.

#### **Other Items**

40B question. Ms. Dein asked what is being done with the feedback the CEFC provided at the last meeting. Mr. Hanlon said the regular process for 40B is to seek input from Town committees, but the Board and Planning Director are keen to seek input more comprehensively from the community. The CEFC input is being considered along with all other input gathered as part of the 40B outreach process.

Mr. Miettinen moved to end the meeting and Ms. Dein seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23.

Submitted by Coralie Cooper.